

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 20488

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TAGS: EC, UK, CSCE, UN, CY, XJ

SUBJECT: THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY: AGENDA FOR
JANUARY 25-26 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING AND
JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 1 POLITICAL COOPERATION
MINISTERIAL MEETING

1. WE WERE ASKED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE DECEMBER 17 TO
RECEIVE THE PROJECTED COMMUNITY AGENDA FOR POLITICAL
CONSULTATION MEETINGS IN LONDON AT THE END OF JANUARY.
ALTHOUGH SUBJECT TO CHANGE, THIS AGENDA REPRESENTS THE
FOREIGN OFFICE'S BEST GUESS AS TO WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED
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BY POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND MINISTERS. WE HOPE TO RECEIVE
A FORMAL AGENDA FROM HMG FOR THESE TWO GET TOGETHERS
ABOUT TEN DAYS BEFORE THEY OCCUR.

2. CYPRUS IS CERTAIN TO BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE AS WE WERE
TOLD IT IS A "FESTERING SORE THAT WORRIES PEOPLE."

ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH ARE PRESSING FOR UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY, MOST OF THE REST OF THE NINE ARE WAITING BREATHLESSLY FOR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE FROM THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. ALTHOUGH IT REALIZES THE DIFFICULTY OF ASKING WASHINGTON TO PASS ANY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT SO SOON AFTER THE INAUGURATION, HMG BELIEVES THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE ITEM ON THE US/EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION AGENDA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

3. CSCE WILL BE THE MOST TIME CONSUMING ITEM AT THESE MEETINGS. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION PUT BEFORE THE MINISTERS WILL CENTER ON HOW THE BELGRADE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. THEY WILL ALSO LOOK AT A SHORT PAPER ON DETENTE PRODUCED BY EXPERTS.

4. THE AGENDA ITEM WITH THE MOST ACRIMONIUS POTENTIAL CONCERNS THE MEMBER STATES' VOTING PERFORMANCE AT THE UNGA. A PAPER EVALUATING EC PERFORMANCE PREPARED BY THE NINE'S MISSIONS IN NEW YORK WILL BE FINISHED BY JANUARY 11 AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY BOTH THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND THE MINISTERS. THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP AGREED PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT THAT THE NINE WOULD USE IN DECIDING UN VOTES BUT UNDERSTAND THIS IS EASIER STUDIED THAN DONE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER CROSLAND WILL BRIEF HIS COLLEAGUES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA, PERHAPS OVER DINNER.

6. THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT PRESENTLY ON THE AGENDA, BUT THE BELGIANS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BILATERALLY BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EGYPTIANS WHO ARGUED FOR IMMEDIATE RECONVENING OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE. THUS, THE BELGIANS MAY INSIST THAT THIS BE CONSIDERED BY THE NINE AT THESE LATE JANUARY MEETINGS.

7. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND MINISTERS WILL ALSO PROBABLY REVIEW THE CURRENT STATE OF THE EURO/ARAB DIALOGUE WITH PARTICULAR DISCUSSION OF THE OPENING STATEMENT THE EC WILL MAKE AT THE NEXT GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING IN TUNIS IN FEBRUARY.

8. COMMENT: THIS TENTATIVE AGENDA MAY CHANGE TO SOME DEGREE BEFORE THESE MEETINGS ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE. BUT THE BRITISH ARE OBVIOUSLY DEDICATED TO GETTING US/EC POLITICAL CONSULTATION OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT. ALTHOUGH WE TOO ARE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL FACE IN CONVEYING ITS VIEWS TO THE COMMUNITY SO SOON AFTER JANUARY 20, WE HOPE WASHINGTON WILL BE

ABLE TO PUT SOMETHING OF CONSIDERABLE SUBSTANCE ON THE
EC PLATE FOR THESE FIRST POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETINGS
OF THE UK PRESIDENCY. SPIERS

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